

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 to 5. (canceled).

6. (original): A process for producing an N-vinyl compound polymer which comprises containing an organic base in an N-vinyl compound polymer to regulate pH of the polymer.

7. (original): A process for producing an aqueous N-vinyl compound polymer solution which-comprises adding an organic base to an aqueous N-vinyl compound polymer solution having a pH lower than 7.0 to thereby regulate pH of the solution.

8. (original): A process for producing an N-vinyl compound polymer powder which comprises adding an organic base to an aqueous N-vinyl compound polymer solution having a pH lower than 7.0 to thereby regulate pH of the solution and drying the resulting aqueous polymer solution.

9. (original): The process of claim 6, 7 or 8, wherein said organic base is an organic base having a boiling point of 120°C or higher at ordinary pressure.

10. (withdrawn): The process as claimed in claims 6, 7 or 8, wherein said N-vinyl compound polymer is obtained by adding organic acids having a boiling point of 140°C or higher at ordinary pressure to an N-vinyl compound polymer to thereby diminish an amount of residual N-vinyl compounds.

11. (original): The process as claimed in claim 6, 7 or 8, wherein said N-vinyl compound is N-vinyl lactams.

12. (original): The process as claimed in claim 6, 7 or 8, wherein said N-vinyl compound is N-vinylpyrrolidone.

13. (new): The process as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 8, wherein the organic base comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of triethanolamine, guanidine carbonate and dihydrazide adipate.

14. (new): The process as claimed in claim 9, wherein the organic base comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of triethanolamine, guanidine carbonate and dihydrazide adipate.